

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A semiconductor storage device storing regular data and having a security function for preventing unauthorized use of the regular data, comprising:

5 a first store including a first storing area for fixedly storing first regular data and a dummy data storing area for fixedly storing dummy data;

a second store including a second storing area which have a storage capacity equal to at least a storage capacity of the dummy data storing area of the first storing means and fixedly stores second regular data to be originally stored in the dummy data storing area; and

10 a read control circuit which compares an input address with the dummy data of an address space of the dummy data storing area, to enable reading of the first regular data from the first store when the input address and the dummy address are not identical, and to disable the reading of the first regular data and enable the reading of the second regular data from the second store when the input address and the dummy address are identical.

15 2. A semiconductor storage device according to claim 1, wherein the first store includes a masked ROM, and the second store includes an nonvolatile semiconductor memory which is a writable/readable memory.

20 3. A semiconductor storage device according to claim 2, wherein the nonvolatile semiconductor memory has a storage capacity larger than a storage capacity of the second regular data storing area, and further includes a dummy address storing area for storing the dummy address other than the second regular data storing area, and the

dummy address to be applied to the read control means is read from the dummy address storing area.

4. A semiconductor storage device according to claim 3, wherein the semiconductor nonvolatile memory is constructed such that the data is written with a first write voltage in the second regular data storing area and the dummy address storing area, and the data is written with a second write voltage lower than the first write voltage in other areas.

5. A semiconductor storage device according to claim 1, wherein the read control circuit includes a comparator for comparing the input address and the dummy address with each other to output a first signal or a second signal, an enabling/disabling circuit for enabling the first store in response to the first signal and disabling the first store in response to the second signal, and a read address output circuit for outputting a read address for the second regular data being stored in the second store in response to the second signal.

6. A semiconductor storage device according to claim 2, wherein the semiconductor nonvolatile memory and the read control circuit is formed within the same single memory chip.

7. A memory cartridge storing an application program and having a security function for preventing unauthorized use of the application program, comprising:
a first store including a first program storing area for fixedly storing a first application program and a dummy data storing area for fixedly storing dummy data;
a second store including a second program storing area which have a storage capacity equal to at least a storage capacity of the dummy data storing area of the first

store and fixedly stores a second application program to be originally stored in the dummy data storing area; and

a read control circuit which compares an input address with the dummy data of an address space of the dummy data storing area, to enable reading of the first

5 application program from the first store when the input address and the dummy address are not identical, and to disable the reading of the first application program and enable the reading of the second application program from the second store when the input address and the dummy address are identical.

8. An electronic device for storing an application program and having a security
10 function for preventing unauthorized use of the application program, comprising:

a first store including a first program storing area for fixedly storing a first application program and a dummy data storing area for fixedly storing dummy data;

a second store including a second program storing area which have a storage capacity equal to at least a storage capacity of the dummy data storing area of the first
15 store and fixedly stores a second application program to be originally stored in the dummy data storing area; and

a read control circuit which compares an input address with the dummy data of an address space of the dummy data storing area, to enable reading of the first application program from the first store when the input address and the dummy address
20 are not identical, and to disable the reading of the first application program and enable the reading of the second application program from the second store when the input address and the dummy address are identical.

12. A memory cartridge for a game machine according to claim 11, wherein the nonvolatile semiconductor is constructed such that the data is written in the second game program storing area and the dummy address storing area with a first write voltage and the data is written with a second write voltage lower than the first write voltage into other areas, in the storing area into which the data is written with the second write voltage, and

backup data representing a development of the game obtained by executing the first game program and/or the second game program by a processor of a game machine is written.

13. A memory cartridge for a game machine according to claim 9, wherein the read control circuit includes a comparator for comparing the input address and the dummy address with each other to output a first signal or a second signal, an enabling/disabling circuit for enabling the first store in response to the first signal and disabling the first store in response to the second signal, and a read address output circuit for outputting a read address for the second regular data being stored in the second store in response to the second signal.

14. A method for preventing unauthorized use of regular data stored in a storage device comprising the steps of:

storing in a first storage area first regular data and storing dummy data in a dummy data area of said first storage area;

storing in a second storage area having a storage capacity equal to at least a storage capacity of the dummy data storing area of the first storage area second regular data to be originally stored in the dummy data storing area; and

comparing an input address with the dummy data of an address space of the dummy data storing area, to enable reading of the first regular data from the first storage area when the input address and the dummy address are not identical, and to disable the reading of the first regular data and enable the reading of the second regular data from the second storage when the input address and the dummy address are identical.

15. . A method according to claim 14, wherein the first storage area resides in a masked ROM, and the second storage area resides in a nonvolatile semiconductor memory which is a writable/readable memory.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the nonvolatile semiconductor memory has a storage capacity larger than a storage capacity of the second regular data storing area, and further including the step of storing a dummy address in a dummy address storing area, and reading the dummy address from the dummy address storing area.

17. A method according to claim 15, further including the step of writing to the semiconductor nonvolatile memory with a first write voltage in certain areas, and writing with a second write voltage lower than the first write voltage in other areas.

18. A method according to claim 15, further including the steps of comparing the input address and the dummy address with each other to output a first signal or a second signal, and enabling the first storage area in response to the first signal and disabling the first store in response to the second signal, and outputting a read address for the second regular data being stored in the second storage area in response to the second signal.